

## CHILD WELFARE-RELATED BILLS **PASSED** IN THE 2015 GENERAL SESSION

BILL	DESCRIPTION
<b>H.B. 39 Second Substitute – Emergency Placement of Children</b> <i>Rep. Johnny Anderson</i>	<p>Amends provisions related to the emergency placement of a child who has been removed by the Division of Child and Family Services.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permits the Division of Child and Family Services (the division) to place a child in an emergency placement with a friend, designated by the custodial parent or guardian, who is not a licensed foster parent;</li> <li>modifies the definition of "relative" as it relates to abuse, neglect, and dependency proceedings;</li> <li>permits the division to place a child in an emergency placement with an adult who is an adoptive parent of the child's sibling; and</li> <li>permits the court to award custody of a child with an adult who is an adoptive parent of a child's sibling.</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 139 Third Substitute – Foster Home Amendments</b> <i>Rep. B. Daw</i>	<p>Amends the definition of "foster home" in the Utah Human Services Code.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amends the definition of "foster home."</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 145 -- Vulnerable Adult Worker Amendments</b> <i>Rep. D. Sanpei</i>	<p>Amends provisions relating to the Department of Human Services' background check procedures.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>defines terms;</li> <li>permits the Department of Human Services to conduct criminal background screening of employees and volunteers;</li> <li>amends provisions relating to when the Office of Licensing (the office) shall conduct a background check;</li> <li>requires each applicant 18 years of age or older to submit fingerprints to the office for a national criminal history search;</li> <li>clarifies which databases the office must search to conduct a background check;</li> <li>provides that the office may submit an applicant's personal identifying information to the Bureau of Criminal Identification (the Bureau) within the Department of Public Safety for retention, monitoring, and notification of new criminal activity associated with an applicant;</li> <li>requires the office to conduct a comprehensive review of an applicant's background check if the applicant has a record of an adjudication in juvenile court for an act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony or misdemeanor;</li> <li>provides that the office may conditionally approve an applicant, other than a prospective foster or adoptive parent, without the applicant being directly supervised, pending the results of a national criminal history search; and</li> <li>makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>

BILL	DESCRIPTION
<b>H.B. 189 – Child Welfare Mediation</b> <i>Rep. E. Hutchings</i>	Amends provisions relating to the Dispute Resolution Account. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increases the amount of fees deposited into the Dispute Resolution Account.</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 334 First Substitute – Child and Family Amendments</b> <i>Rep. L. Christensen</i>	Amends provisions of the Restoration of Parental Rights Act. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permits a child of any age to petition to restore parental rights.</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 356 Third Substitute – Parent and Child Amendments</b> <i>Rep. L. Christensen</i>	Amends provisions that relate to child welfare. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amends the definition of "harm" in the Juvenile Court Act;</li> <li>amends provisions related to the medical treatment of a child; and</li> <li>amends provisions related to the custody of a child with the Division of Child and Family Services.</li> </ul>
<b>S.B. 10 – Compact for Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information</b> <i>Sen. L. Escamilla</i>	Enacts the Compact for Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>defines terms;</li> <li>describes the purpose of the Compact for Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information;</li> <li>describes the process for entering, withdrawing from, and amending the compact;</li> <li>describes the responsibilities and privileges of states participating in the compact;</li> <li>addresses the privacy, retention, and use of putative father registry information shared under the compact;</li> <li>includes a severability clause; and</li> <li>requires the state registrar, appointed by the Department of Health, to study the procedures necessary to implement the Compact for Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information.</li> </ul>
<b>S.B. 59 – Domestic Violence Amendments</b> <i>Sen. T. Weiler</i>	Modifies provisions in the Cohabitant Abuse Procedures Act. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amends provisions related to a plea of guilty or no contest to a domestic violence offense.</li> </ul>
<b>S.B. 101 Fifth Substitute – Adoption Amendments</b> <i>Sen. T. Weiler</i>	Amends the Utah Adoption Act. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provides a definition;</li> <li>requires an unmarried biological father to file a petition in district court for an order establishing temporary child support before the unmarried biological father may consent to the adoption of a child who is six months of age or less; and</li> <li>creates a process for the juvenile court to consider multiple petitions for adoption.</li> </ul>

BILL	DESCRIPTION
<b>S.B. 103 – Child Welfare Amendments</b> <i>Sen. W. Harper</i>	<p>Amends provisions of the Utah Code related to child welfare.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amends provisions related to a primary permanency plan and a concurrent permanency plan;</li> <li>• adds a child interview to the definition of "record" for purposes of the Public Records Management Act;</li> <li>• repeals a provision in the Adoption Act related to the Division of Child and Family Services;</li> <li>• includes uncodified language directing the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel to study reporting of child abuse and neglect; and</li> <li>• makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>
<b>S.B. 155 – Children's Justice Centers Amendments</b> <i>Sen. R. Okerlund</i>	<p>Amends provisions related to Children's Justice Centers.</p> <p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amends the counties in which the attorney general shall establish Children's Justice Centers.</li> </ul>
<b>H.J.R. 12 – Joint Resolution on Homeless and Runaway Youth</b> <i>Rep. G. Froerer</i>	<p>This joint resolution of the Legislature designates the month of November as "Homeless and Runaway Youth Awareness Month."</p> <p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• designates the month of November as "Homeless and Runaway Youth Awareness Month"; and</li> <li>• recognizes the efforts of those addressing the problem of youth homelessness.</li> </ul>
<b>S.J.R. 1 – Joint Resolution Urging Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information</b> <i>Sen. L. Escamilla</i>	<p>This joint resolution of the Legislature urges actions to promote the interstate sharing of putative father registry information.</p> <p>This resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• urges each state, district, and territory of the United States to enact the Compact for Interstate Sharing of Putative Father Registry Information;</li> <li>• urges the Uniform Law Commission to develop model state laws that promote the interstate sharing of putative father registry information; and</li> <li>• urges Congress to enact legislation that promotes the interstate sharing of putative father registry information, while respecting state control over related public policies.</li> </ul>

## CHILD WELFARE-RELATED BILLS **NOT PASSED** IN THE 2015 GENERAL SESSION

BILL	DESCRIPTION
<b>H.B. 164 – Grandparent Rights Amendments</b> <i>Rep. L. Christensen</i>	Amends provisions concerning the visitation rights of a grandparent. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amends definitions; and</li> <li>• provides that a grandparent may petition for visitation after a parent's rights have been terminated, unless the grandchild is adopted by a nonrelative.</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 176 – Rights of Child Victim Amendments</b> <i>Rep. L. Christensen</i>	Provides that a child victim may have a parent present during interviews. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides a child victim the right to have a parent that is not the subject of the investigation present during interviews.</li> </ul>
<b>H.B. 449 – Amendments to Adoptive Studies and Evaluations</b> <i>Rep. E. Redd</i>	Amends provisions related to adoptive evaluations. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• addresses who may conduct a preplacement adoptive evaluation;</li> <li>• addresses information a court shall or may consider related to a preplacement adoptive study before finalizing a petition for adoption; and</li> <li>• makes technical and conforming changes.</li> </ul>
<b>S.B. 261 – Child Welfare Revisions</b> <i>Sen. A. Jackson</i>	Amends language related to child welfare services. This bill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amends language related to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· the state's interest in protecting a child; and</li> <li>· standards for the Division of Child and Family Services to seek custody of a child.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>